



COVID-19 Daily Update – Friday, May 1, 2020

Good afternoon Governors,

Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy and New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez are expected to introduce their bipartisan bill proposing \$500 billion in federal funding for states, territories and localities on Monday, May 4 when the Senate reconvenes. The bill "ensures every eligible entity receives additional funding, increases flexibility for states and local governments to use the funds to plug revenue losses due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and targets additional funding toward coronavirus hot zones to combat the pandemic head-on," [according](#) to their press release.

As you continue your fight against the coronavirus and the economic hardship it has caused, we are with you in the effort to secure bipartisan solutions. You can find the latest on state actions on [NGA's coronavirus resource website](#). This email provides the most recent state and federal activities, as well as NGA support material, to assist you with your state's COVID-19 response.

[Resources for States](#)

Today's Highlights

- NGA has [released](#) a memo to detail cybersecurity concerns related to the shift to remote work and an increase in malicious cyber activity during the pandemic.

- Today, NGA led a call with governors' offices on best practices for applying for and administering the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund provided under the CARES Act.
- The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) [announced](#) the launch of a free, on-demand training for entry-level COVID-19 contact tracers. More information is below.

NGA Governors-Only Call

- The next NGA governors-only call will be held **Wednesday, May 6, at 1 p.m. EDT.**

NGA Summer Meeting

The National Governors Association will postpone our August Summer Meeting until further notice, given the priority for governors to continue to oversee state management of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue our regular phone calls that have kept us connected and to share ideas and best practices for the benefit of all citizens.

HHS Begins Distribution of Payments to Hospitals with High COVID-19 Admissions, Rural Providers

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is processing payments from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10 and to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19. More information is below.

COVID-19 High-Impact Distribution

Recognizing the particular impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on hospitals in certain parts of the nation, and that inpatient admissions are a primary driver of costs to hospitals related to COVID-19, HHS is distributing \$12 billion to 395 hospitals who provided inpatient care for 100 or more COVID-19 patients through April 10, 2020, \$2 billion of which will be

distributed to these hospitals based on their Medicare and Medicaid disproportionate share and uncompensated care payments.

These 395 hospitals accounted for 71 percent of COVID-19 inpatient admissions reported to HHS from nearly 6,000 hospitals around the country. The distribution uses a simple formula to determine what each hospital receives: hospitals are paid a fixed amount per COVID-19 inpatient admission, with an additional amount taking into account their Medicare and Medicaid disproportionate share and uncompensated care payments. These hospitals will begin receiving funds via direct deposit in the coming days.

View the state and county breakdown [here](#).

Rural Distribution

Rural hospitals, many of whom were operating on thin margins prior to COVID-19, have also been particularly devastated by this pandemic. As healthy patients delay care and cancel elective services, rural hospitals are struggling to keep their doors open. Recipients of the \$10 billion rural distribution will include, rural acute care general hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and Community Health Centers located in rural areas.

Hospitals and RHCs will each receive a minimum base payment plus a percent of their annual expenses. This expense-based method accounts for operating cost and lost revenue incurred by rural hospitals for both inpatient and outpatient services. The base payment will account for RHCs with no reported Medicare claims, such as pediatric RHCs, and CHCs lacking expense data, by ensuring that all clinical, non-hospital sites receive a minimum level of support no less than \$100,000, with additional payment based on operating expenses. Rural acute care general hospitals and CAHs will receive a minimum level of support of no less than \$1 million, with additional payment based on operating expenses.

Eligible providers will begin receiving funds in the coming days via direct deposit, based on the physical address of the facilities as reported to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), regardless of their affiliation with organizations based in urban areas.

View the state-by-state breakdown [here](#).

HHS and the Administration are continuing to work rapidly on additional targeted distributions to some providers including skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and providers that solely take Medicaid. Visit hhs.gov/providerrelief for additional information.

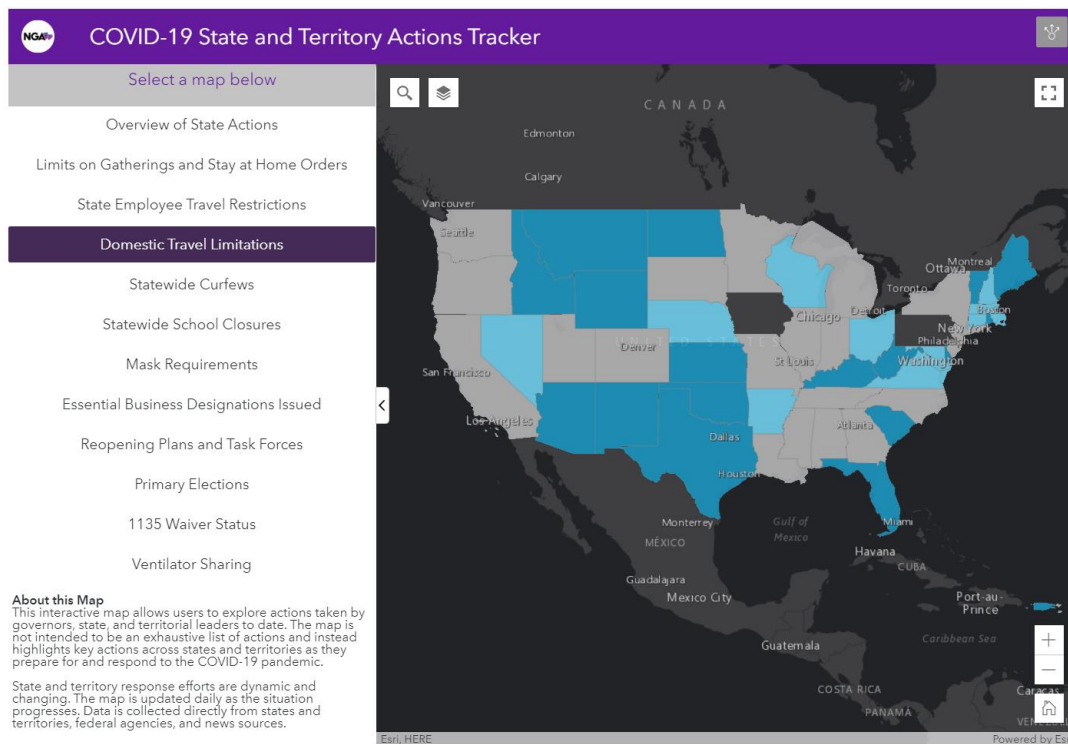
Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act Reminder

I want to remind governors that the recently passed “Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act” (Public Law No: 116-139), included \$25 billion for COVID-19 testing, including \$11 billion for states, territories, localities and tribal organizations. The law states that no later than 30 days after enactment, the governor or designee receiving funds must submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services its plan for COVID–19 testing, including goals for the remainder of the current calendar year, to include: (1) the number of tests needed, month by month, including diagnostic, serological and other tests, as appropriate; (2) month-by-month estimates of laboratory and testing capacity, including related to workforce, equipment and supplies, and available tests; and (3) a description of how the state, locality, territory, tribe or tribal organization will use its resources for testing, including as it relates to easing any COVID–19 community mitigation policies. No further guidance has been provided from the administration at this time. NGA will provide further information as soon as it is received.

[Coronavirus Webpage](#)

COVID-19 State and Territory Actions Tracker

In partnership with Esri, NGA has released the [COVID-19 State and Territory Actions Tracker](#). This interactive map allows users to explore actions taken by governors, state and territorial leaders, including the enactment of stay-at-home orders, travel limitations, school closures, and many more. The map is updated daily as information becomes available. Data is collected directly from states and territories, federal agencies and news sources.



NGA Activities

NGA Resource on COVID-19 and Cybersecurity

NGA has [released](#) a memo to detail cybersecurity concerns related to the shift to remote work and increase in malicious cyber activity during the pandemic. This document provides concrete recommendations for governors' offices for enhancing statewide cybersecurity for state agencies, critical infrastructure partners, local government entities and the general public.

Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors

In response to your requests, NGA and the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) released a new resource – [A Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors](#). Following the release of [guidance](#) from the White House Coronavirus Taskforce, this roadmap synthesizes and expands upon federal and other expert recommendations on how governors may protect public health while building a plan for reopening businesses and society as a step to longer term economic

recovery. The roadmap outlines 10 steps and related operational considerations for governors.

NGA's Resources for States Webpage

NGA and the nation's governors are working together to provide [an online hub](#) where businesses and other organizations with supplies or services can connect with state officials regarding critical needs.

NGA Legal Counsel Call on Regulatory Takings

NGA's next legal counsel call on Tuesday, May 5, at 3 p.m. EDT will discuss regulatory takings claims in the context of COVID-19. The call will provide an overview of regulatory takings precedent, related state actions as well as potential issues for state consideration. The call will also include brief remarks from counsel on their respective state reopening approaches. (Dial-In: 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 202-624-5375)

Weekly Call on Unemployment

With more than 30 million initial unemployment claims filed in the past six weeks, states are working to expand the capacity of existing systems and set up new systems to make unemployment assistance payments as quickly as possible. As states work to issue payments in a timely manner amid an historic surge in claims, concerns are growing about fraudulent activity. Yesterday's call focused on these concerns and how states may proactively address them to protect claimants and the integrity of their systems. A link to a recording of the call can be found [here](#).

To access previous weekly unemployment calls, click the links below:

- April 16 [call](#), [presentation](#) and [memo](#) on communicating with the public about unemployment
- April 24 [call](#) on how to set up pandemic unemployment insurance

State Coronavirus Action Network (SCAN) Calls

NGA is hosting weekly State Coronavirus Action Network (SCAN) calls to facilitate cross-state learning, allow states to hear from subject matter experts, and communicate technical assistance needs to NGA staff.

Inclusive Response and Recovery Planning: Best Practices for Engaging Access and Functional Needs Communities: Traditionally underserved communities often have access and functional needs, which are

exacerbated by emergencies like COVID-19. NGA is hosting a SCAN call on Thursday, May 7 at 4 p.m. to highlight strategies, best practices and specific state examples to reduce inequitable impacts on those with access and functional needs and address their unique needs related to communication, medical care, supervision and transportation. The call will address strategies for more fully and consistently integrating these communities into disaster response and recovery planning across all layers of government as well as cross-cutting approaches to service delivery before, during and after an incident. (Join Zoom Meeting [here](#), Dial In: 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 941-7347-2950)

Strategies to Reduce the Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on Racial and Ethnic Communities: Yesterday's SCAN call highlighted strategies, best practices and specific state examples to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. Speakers on the call discussed how existing health disparities have increased the impact of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minorities, as well as the strategies states are taking to collect data, monitor and track disparities, and ensure equitable access to testing and follow-up care. A link to the recording of the call can be found [here](#) and the presentation slides can be found [here](#).

To access previous SCAN calls, click the links below:

- [Feb. 26 call on emergency powers](#)
- [March 10 call on crisis communications](#)
- [March 17 call on mitigation strategies](#)
- [March 24 call on healthcare capacity](#)
- [March 25 call on testing](#)
- [March 31 call on unemployment insurance programs](#)
- [April 1 call on business community challenges and solutions](#)
- [April 7 call on understanding the impact of social distancing on COVID-19](#)
- [April 9 call on innovation in crisis management](#)
- [April 10 call on national and state projections for COVID-19](#)
- [April 13 call on supply chain and procurement issues](#) (Access Password: e9?s\$84=)
- [April 16 call on cybersecurity concerns for COVID-19](#)
- [April 21 call on disaster recovery and reimbursement](#) (Access Password: 2Y^s^U%@)
- [April 23 call on the Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors](#) (Access Password: 1q&J%*u.)

The Governor's Education Relief Fund: Applying for and Administering the Program

Today, NGA led a call with governors' offices on best practices for applying for and administering the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund provided under the CARES Act. The GEER Fund provides \$3 billion in extraordinarily flexible funding directly to governors in order to address immediate educational needs in communities across each state. Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Education made these funds available to governors. Governors who submit an application will have significant funding delivered to their states within three days of the application's submission. This call provided evidence-based examples on how to govern the fund in your states, and provided states an opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices for utilizing the fund to maximize educational impact. A link to a recording of the call will be included in Monday's daily update.

Actions Being Taken By Governors

[State Action Tracking Chart](#)

Reopening Plans and Task Forces

At least 44 states have created reopening plans or task forces: AK, AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV and WY.

Statewide/Territory-Wide Mask Policy

At least 32 states, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands have recommended a statewide or territory-wide mask policy: AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, MA, MN, MO, MS, MT, ND, NE, NH, NM, NV, OH, OK, OR, SC, SD, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI and WV.

At least 16 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have implemented a mandatory statewide or territory-wide mask policy in certain circumstances: AK, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, LA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT and WY.

Ventilator Sharing

At least six states have shared ventilators with other states: AR, CA, NJ, NY, OR and WA.

Closure of Nonessential Business Spaces

At least 23 states, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia have implemented statewide or territory-wide closures of nonessential business spaces: AZ, CA, DE, FL, HI, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, MN, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, PA, RI, VA, WA and WV.

At least 23 states, Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have required some closures of nonessential business spaces: AK, AL, AR, CO, CT, GA, IA, ID, LA, ME, MI, MS, MT, ND, NE, OH, OK, OR, SC, TN, TX, VT, WI and WY.

Missouri, South Dakota and Utah have issued guidance on closures of nonessential business spaces.

Spotlight: Maryland Ramps Up Mitigation Efforts in Nursing Homes

Yesterday, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan [released](#) an amendment to an April 5 executive order to intensify containment and mitigation efforts in nursing homes. The state's nursing homes account for 46 percent of COVID-related deaths, but only 19 percent of positive cases. To address this high-risk group, Gov. Hogan and Secretary of Health Robert Neall have issued the following mandatory directives:

- Universal testing of all residents and staff at all Maryland nursing homes, regardless of symptoms;
- Mandatory compliance and cooperation with state strike teams;
- Daily evaluation of residents by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or registered nurse;
- Supplementing strike teams with new bridge teams, which will provide emergency clinical staffing to nursing homes that are experiencing a staffing crisis; and
- Regular informational updates for residents, resident representatives, and staff regarding COVID-19 infections.

Recent Steps Taken by the Federal Government and Congress

For a full list of federal government actions, please visit [NGA's coronavirus webpage](#).

- April 30 — U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao [announced](#) the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will award \$1.187 billion in airport safety and infrastructure grants to 439 airports in 50 states. This includes \$731 million through the Airport Improvement Program and \$455 million in supplemental discretionary grants.
- April 30 — The Federal Reserve [announced](#) it would expand the scope and eligibility for the Main Street Lending Program, including lowering the minimum loan size and expanding the credit options. As part of its broad effort to support the economy, the Federal Reserve developed the program to help credit flow to small and medium-sized businesses that were in sound financial condition before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- April 30 — The Federal Reserve [announced](#) expanded access to its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility (PPPLF) to additional lenders and expanded the collateral that can be pledged. The changes will facilitate lending to small businesses via the Small Business Administration's [Paycheck Protection Program](#), which helps small businesses keep workers employed amid the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.
- April 30 — The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) the new independent Commission to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the nursing home response to COVID-19. The Commission will include leading industry experts, family members, clinicians, resident/patient advocates, medical ethicists, administrators, academicians, infection control and prevention professionals, state and local authorities, and other selected experts. It is expected to convene in late May and develop recommendations on three key tasks: (1) putting nursing home residents first by ensuring they are protected from COVID-19 and improving the responsiveness of care delivery to maximize the quality of life for residents; (2) strengthening efforts to enable rapid and effective identification and mitigation of COVID-19 transmission (and other infectious disease) in nursing homes; and (3) enhancing strategies to improve compliance with infection control policies in response to COVID-19.
- April 30 — The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) [issued](#) guidance to provide states with operating, financial and reporting instructions for the full federal funding of the first week of unemployment compensation (UC) authorized by section 2105, Temporary Full

Federal Funding of the First Week of Compensable Regular Unemployment for States with No Waiting Week, of the CARES Act.

- April 29 — The U.S. Department of Treasury [released](#) additional guidance for the [Paycheck Protection Program](#), established in the CARES Act ([P.L. 116-136](#)), which helps small businesses keep workers employed amid the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. The initiative provides 100 percent federally guaranteed loans to small businesses through Dec. 31, 2020 for SBA 7(a) loans.

Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) [announced](#) the launch of a free, on-demand training for entry-level COVID-19 contact tracers. The course, [Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#), will support ongoing public health agency efforts to prepare new contact tracers for their work of helping to identify COVID-19 positive cases and those they've been in close contact with.

Social Media

NGA has posted a significant amount of official state content on social media regarding COVID-19 response efforts, to provide a platform for governors and to more widely distribute expert advice and opinion. Additionally, we have used our social media channels to promote policy positions around federal stimulus packages, a roadmap for reopening, and health alerts. This content has been shared widely by NGA's followers via YouTube videos and through Facebook, which has led to significant increase in our audience and engagement. YouTube subscribers are up 22 percent in April and Facebook followers are up 16 percent. We are demonstrating the effectiveness of state-specific approaches, while highlighting the common need for resources and support, during this time of anxiety and misinformation.

Please follow [NGA's Official Twitter account](#) to stay up to date on recent state actions and announcements on social media. If you have specific information you'd like NGA to share via our own social media accounts, please email Bradley Peck at bpeck@nga.org.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with questions. Additionally, if you would like technical assistance or more information from NGA, contact [Maribel Ramos](#) (NGA Government Relations), [Lauren Stienstra](#) (Homeland Security and Public Safety Division) or [Melinda Becker](#) (Health Division).

Respectfully,

Bill

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